

Nonpoint Source Tracking and Monitoring Council
June 8, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Objective: Exchange information and encourage discussion to enhance collaboration among various water quality monitoring activities.

California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)– Josh Collin, SFEI

CRAM has been developed to evaluate the effectiveness of investments spent over the last 20 years in protecting, restoring, creating, and enhancing of wetlands throughout California. Previously, effectiveness information on these investments was not readily available to resource manager, regulators, elected officials, Non Government Organizations (NGO's) and the public, mainly, because the condition of wetlands was not monitored systematically. As a result, the state has been working towards the implementation of a toolkit (CRAM) of standardized data collection and assessment methods to monitor wetlands and riparian habitat within various state programs. Currently, there are three-regional groups (South Coast, Central Coast, and North Coast/Bay Area) that use CRAM to assess wetlands on a continual basis. The technical framework of CRAM consists of three levels:

- Landscape Assessment (Level 1);
- Rapid Assessment (Level 2); and
- Intensive Sited Assessment (Level 3).

The overall goal of CRAM is: *To provide a rapid, scientifically-defensible, and repeatable assessment methodology that can be used routinely in wetland monitoring and assessment programs. CRAM should be applicable to wetlands and streams throughout the state of California. The general framework of CRAM should be consistent across wetland types and regions, yet allow for customization to address special characteristics of different regional and wetland classes* (California Rapid Assessment Methods for Wetlands V 3.0, http://www.wrmp.org/docs/cram/DRAFT_CRAMv3.pdf)

Please refer to the powerpoint presentation for more information on CRAM
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/docs/tmc/2006/060806cram_intro.pdf

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SWAMP-SPARC Update – Val Connor, SWRCB

In March 2006, SWAMP met with the Scientific Planning and Review Committee (SPARC) to present their responses to the SPARC six recommendations proposed in November 2005. SPARC is an external committee composed of scientist and experts in the scientific community who conducts a triennial review of the State's SWAMP. The Final Report of the Scientific Planning and Review Committee to SWAMP, May 2006 can be found at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/docs/reports/sparc486_swampreview.pdf. The SWAMP Strategy Document will be revised in October 2006 to reflect the responses to the SPARC recommendations. The SWAMP-SPARC Update presentation is posted on the NPS website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/docs/tmc/2006/swamp_sparc.pdf

Enhancing Regional Monitoring within SWAMP

- San Joaquin Presentation, Sam Ziegler, USEPA-Region 9. The San Joaquin Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategy was created to serve two goals: (1) to develop a system for improved monitoring and assessment of water quality in the San Joaquin River Region; and (2) to develop a public-private partnership to improve water quality information needed for more effective environmental management. This process will be conducted by: (1) developing the partnership through interviews, workshops and stakeholder advisory/steering committees; (2) creating and implementing a Water Quality Monitoring Strategy, (3) developing assessment fact sheets; and (4) creating a website/clearinghouse for water quality monitoring information. The physical scope of the strategy includes the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region.
- Collaborative Regional Monitoring Program for the Klamath River Basin. This project arose out of U.S. EPA's desire to address nonpoint source (NPS) pollution issues in California and to support activities aimed at enhancing regional monitoring within the State framework. Given the complexity and severity of the many water quality problems facing the Klamath River Basin and the decreasing level of available resources at all levels, there is a clear need for the development of a coordinated and sustainable monitoring program for the Klamath River Basin. This project aims to: (1) integrate individual monitoring efforts; (2) develop a centralized clearinghouse or web portal for high quality water quality data that is readily accessible; (3) provide a frame work for transforming monitoring data into public information; (4) track long-term trends as well as provide flexibility to respond to short-term trends; and (5) initiate a sustainable, long-term program. The contract is in the development stage and work is projected to start in the fall.
- Central Coast Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Project. Through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's (MBNMSF) Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP), the Central Coast Water Monitoring Pilot Project will develop a strategic plan that will contain information pertaining to the quality water throughout the Central Coast. This project will identify long-term water quality monitoring parameters for the area. More importantly to the NPS Program, this work will identify methods and parameters for tracking management measures (MM) and/or management practices (MP) implementation and the impact of these management programs on water quality in the Central Coast. These processes can then be institutionalized to assess on a regular basis the spatial and temporal distribution of water quality conditions, as well as, the distribution (spatial and temporal) of MM/MP implementation. Potentially, this pilot project will develop tracking and data evaluation methods that can then be utilized in other areas of the State. Lastly, the project will identify potential sources of funding and identify opportunities for ongoing coordination and reporting. The work is project to start in the fall.

Central Valley Irrigated-Ag Water Quality Monitoring Program – Margie Lopez-Read,
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)

In 1999, Senate Bill 3901 was adopted and amended the California Water Code (CWC) authorizing waivers of waste discharge requirements (WDRs). As a result, conditional waivers were developed and dischargers were given the option of complying through a coalition group or as an individual grower. There are several objectives of the CVRWQCB monitoring program, they include: (1) assess impacts of dischargers; (2) determine the degree of MP implementation; (3) determine the effectiveness of MPs; (4) determine the concentration and load of waste discharges; and (5) evaluate compliance with water quality objectives. Continual management and documentation of the coalition group and discharger information has been important to the Conditional Waiver Program as well as long term water quality improvement that result from the Irrigated Lands Program. Please refer to be powerpoint presentation for more details on the program at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/docs/tmc/2006/060806tmc_irrigatedlands.pdf. Information on monitoring activities regarding pesticides (e.g., data results, data collectors, and exceedances of water quality objectives) can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/irrigated_lands/index.html#Monitoring

Round Robin Announcements

- The 2006 California Ocean Council will be held on September 17 – 20 in Long Beach, California. The theme of this year's conference is "Implementing the Vision of Ocean and Coastal Protection." For more information please go to <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/>.
- Update on SB 1070. Revisions were incorporated into the Senate Bill and sent to the Governor for signature. The revision included:
 1. A monitoring council will be formed, however the portion that stated the NPS-TMC would be the basis of that group was removed from the Bill.
 2. Also "to the extent possible allowed" language, in reference to funding, was removed

Website : The Tracking and Monitoring Council meeting agendas, minutes and meeting material have been posted on the SWRCB website. The website address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/tmc.html>.

Next Meeting: The next Tracking and Monitoring Council meeting will be October 19th. Several agenda items for October meeting were brought forward in the meeting, they included:

- What will be the role of the NPS-TMC when SB 1070 is passed?
- Who and how will monitoring efforts be tracked from the consolidated grants project (e.g. monitoring plan, QAQC, data requirements)?
- At the project level - what can we do to enhance regional monitoring?
- It is unclear where all the consolidated grants data information will go to be managed if the data capabilities are not available.
- Presentation by Nancy Miller (SWRCB-OIT) on the progress Ambient Monitoring Model for data storage.

- Presentation by Lisa Holm (California Bay-Delta Authority) regarding the Draft Conceptual Model for organic carbon.

If you have any other suggestions for topics please email Sam Zielger (zielger.sam.epa@mail.epa.gov) or Melene Emanuel (memanuel@waterboards.ca.gov).

Attendees List for the June 8, 2006
NPS Tracking and Monitoring Council Meeting

Name	Affiliation	Email Address	Telephone Number
Ross Clark	California Coastal Commission	rclark@coastal.ca.gov	831 427-4873
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Margie Read	CVRWQVB	Mlopez-read@waterboards.ca.gov	916 464-4624

Called In

Dale Hopkins	SFBRWQCB	dhopkin@waterboards.ca.gov	510 622-2362
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